

Arlene's life was dedicated to family, friends and her community. Her memory lives on in our thoughts and prayers. She will always have a special place in our hearts. She was special to all of us. She is now in a better place with her heavenly Father and at peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, a snowstorm in Milwaukee cancelled all flights to Washington, DC yesterday, and I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 29, 30, and 31. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on all three.

RECOVERY REBATES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act, and to commend Speaker PELOSI and Minority Leader BOEHNER for their bipartisan, timely action to get our economy moving.

In Minnesota, median household income has decreased 6.8 percent since 2000, job growth is lagging, and families are being squeezed by increasing gas, health care and education costs. While the cost of the Iraq war has grown to \$36,900 per Minnesota household, over 400,000 Minnesotans live in poverty, families are losing their homes, and a growing number are uninsured.

This bill provides a recovery rebate check for 117 million families to help with rising costs and reinvigorate the economy. These rebates are targeted to middle-income Americans and additional assistance is provided for families with children. In Minnesota, the average rebate will be \$952 and over 2 million families will benefit from this tax relief. H.R. 5140 also provides tax incentives to small businesses to help create jobs, and it increases access to affordable refinancing opportunities to help families keep their homes.

H.R. 5140 is timely, targeted and temporary. While enactment of this package will give the economy a needed boost, it is not the end of our efforts. Congress needs to have a serious discussion about unemployment benefits, food stamps and aid to states facing deficits. And in order to truly grow our economy we need to invest in our infrastructure, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, educate our children, address the health care crisis and end the war in Iraq.

There are significant challenges facing this country, and I am pleased that all parties were able to work together to put together this positive first step. I urge my colleagues to take real action today and to support H.R. 5140.

NANDO GOMEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my most trusted staff members, my Chief of Staff, Fernando P. "Nando" Gomez, Jr. After working in Congress for 7 years, the past 2 as my chief of staff, Nando will be joining the private sector.

Nando's dedication to and interest in public service has led him from the small town of Gregory, TX, to the corridors of two Capitols. During his senior year at the University of Texas in 1994, he began working for the Texas House Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney. Nando worked for Speaker Laney for nearly 5 years and was appointed the House reading clerk during the 74th and 75th Legislative Sessions.

He then moved to Washington, DC in 1998 and worked for Congressman Martin Frost, serving as legislative assistant and then as legislative director. He joined my staff in 2005 and rose from Legislative Director to Chief of Staff.

Words cannot begin to describe what Nando has meant to me, my staff, and the people of the 27th district of Texas. I have relied on Nando for his professionalism, work ethic, and friendship. He takes pride in his work, which is especially personal to him because he was born and raised in the district I represent. For him, it has not just been about serving as my chief of staff—it is about advocating for the issues of his hometown, his family, and his roots.

Nando has also taken an active role with local youth. He serves in Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentor program, where he has had the honor of serving as big brother to his little brother, Franklin, for nearly 5 years. Nando is an avid sports fan whose allegiances lie with the Texas Longhorns, Houston Astros, San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Cowboys.

Though I bid Nando a sad farewell from my office, it will certainly not be a good bye. I look forward to seeing him around the Capitol when he comes up to catch up with old friends.

Nando remains a trusted member of my family, and I will always seek his counsel on matters political and personal. I wish him, his wife Kristy and son Dominic the best of luck during the new phase of his life.

HONORING LEGO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for the past 50 years LEGO has transformed childhood play and provided invaluable academic and economic contributions to local communities around the globe. On January 29, 2008, LEGO celebrated its 50th anniversary. I rise today to recognize 50 years of LEGO innovation and contributions.

LEGO USA headquarters is located in my district in Enfield, Connecticut. Over the past

three decades since headquarters moved from Brookfield to Enfield, Connecticut in 1975, the company has made substantial contributions to the local community. Today it remains the town's largest employer. Although the Enfield offices have struggled in recent years in light of increasing globalization pressures, I remain hopeful that it will continue to innovate and thrive as part of Connecticut's economy. Education and family programs, which have been highlights of the corporation in the past, will continue to have positive lasting impacts on the community in the future.

The LEGO Creative Child Care Center KinderCare@Work program, which accommodates children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age, has received national accolades for quality childhood development services. LEGO's KinderCare@Work program incorporates an engaging, thought-provoking curriculum into a healthy and safe environment for children from the local community. Quality early education programs, like LEGO's KinderCare@Work, are essential for promoting academic and professional success in latter years and should be a model for other private and public early education programs.

Programs geared towards middle and high school students, such as the FIRST LEGO League (FLL), also provide impetus for academic success and an environmentally and socially conscientious society. FLL programs encourage students to look at problems currently affecting global communities from a pragmatic and analytical perspective. LEGO USA has been a regular host of FLL tournaments. In 2007, students from Enfield and all of Connecticut joined students from around the globe in addressing a fundamental question that continues to be the focus of leading environmentalists, engineers, scientists, and politicians: the economic, environmental, and social impact that our energy consumption choices have on our global community.

From, simple yellow and red blocks to black knights and ninjas, the iconic toy has remained a classic, thought-provoking source of play for children around the world. For providing positive academic and economic development in communities around our globe and inspiring generations of artists, architects, and engineers, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring LEGO's 50th anniversary.

HONORING ANDREW "JACK" FULTZ

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Kentuckian.

Andrew "Jack" Fultz served Carter County for most of his life. He coached the Olive Hill High School basketball team from 1951 to 1968, leading the team to the State tournament in 1955, 1956 and 1959. He became a good friend and father-figure to many of his players and maintained that connection long after they were finished playing. Jack ended his career with an impressive win-loss record and was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

In 1983, Jack's 794-page book, *A Comets' Tale*, was published. The book chronicles the history of Olive Hill High School athletics and serves as a testament to his knowledge and love for the many students that he coached.

Jack served the Carter County Board of Education for 60 years, working as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and supervisor. Though he loved coaching and working for the schools, his family always came first. Jack developed a deep faith in God and became an active member of the First Baptist Church in Olive Hill.

I ask that today, as we pay tribute to Jack's extraordinary life of service that we send to Jean, Jack's wife of 60 years, and the rest of the Fultz family, our deepest condolences. Jack continues to be a role-model for all of us and his memory will live on through his life's work.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CIVIC PHILANTHROPIST
RON DEFFENBAUGH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Ron Deffenbaugh, of Shawnee, Kansas, the founder of Deffenbaugh Industries.

Recently, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce presented its 2007 Citizen of the Year Award to Ron Deffenbaugh, who moved to the Kansas City area at age 9 and started a trash collection business with one truck at age 15 in 1957. Since that modest beginning, Deffenbaugh Industries became the largest privately owned refuse firm in the Midwest, including the Johnson County landfill, Deffenbaugh Disposal Service, Shawnee Rock and Johnny on the Spot. Deffenbaugh sponsors annual city events, including Old Shawnee Days, Fields for Freedom, Tidy Town, Shawnee Christmas Around Town., and the Great Grillers barbecue competition. In 2007, Deffenbaugh sold his company to DLJ Merchant Banking Partners.

At the conclusion of the annual Chamber dinner, Deffenbaugh Industries President Mark Rosenau announced a \$500,000 donation from Deffenbaugh to the Shawnee Town renovation project. As Rosenau said, "Ron started Deffenbaugh Disposal Service 50 years ago, and he always had a special affection for Shawnee. He was always quietly generous when it came to requests for services, donations and support from Shawnee groups and individuals. When Ron was informed he had been selected for this most prestigious award, he said he wanted to give something back to his city. He knew the city planned to rebuild Shawnee Town and he decided he wanted to help with that effort."

The City of Shawnee recently issued a press release commending Ron Deffenbaugh for his recent gift to the city and for his lifetime of service and support. Madam Speaker, I include that statement with my remarks and know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in commending this outstanding community leader:

DEFFENBAUGH DONATES TO SHAWNEE TOWN

What a wonderful Night in Casablanca, shared by Shawnee City Officials and busi-

ness leaders at the Sheraton this past Saturday! The Shawnee Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Dinner, which is a gala event honoring civic and business leaders in the community and celebrating a year of great achievement. The theme of Casablanca was apparent through the fashionable attendees and tropical atmosphere of the event. Many leaders were honored at the event including past Chairman and former Shawnee Mayor Jim Allen for his 2007 leadership of the Chamber, Councilmember Dawn Kuhn for the 2007 Ambassador of the year and Ron Deffenbaugh was named 2007 Citizen of the Year.

The citizen of the year honor was well deserved by Ron Deffenbaugh for his countless contributions to the Shawnee community. Deffenbaugh moved to the Kansas City area at the age of nine and started his trash collection business with one truck at the age of 15 in 1957. Since those modest beginnings, Deffenbaugh Industries, Inc. has grown to become the largest privately-owned refuse firm in the Midwest. Deffenbaugh Industries has expanded over the years to include the Johnson County Landfill, Deffenbaugh Disposal Service, Shawnee Rock and Johnny on the Spot. Deffenbaugh saw significant success and this has been shared with the Shawnee community through donations to the City and countless organizations in the community.

Deffenbaugh annually sponsors many of the City events including Old Shawnee Days, Fields for Freedom, Tidy Town, Shawnee Christmas Around Town, St. Patrick's Parade, Sister Cities Program, Great Grillers BBQ Competition and various other events and programs. They have been a wonderful community partner always generously contributing to Shawnee. Deffenbaugh executives, Tom Coffman and Mark Rosenau accepted the award on behalf of Ron on Saturday and announced that he was pledging \$500,000 to the renovation of Shawnee Town. Shawnee Town is an outdoor museum interpreting small town rural life from the 1920s, which includes a museum grounds featuring a home, barn, school, post office, chapel, fire station, various businesses, and gardens. The strategic plan for the renovation of the area was approved in 2007, and this donation will be a tremendous help in getting the project started. The City is extremely grateful to Ron Deffenbaugh and applauds his honor of being named 2007 Citizen of the Year!

CONGRATULATING JONATHAN M. SCHNEIDER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Jonathan M. Schneider, my departing district office director and communications director who was recently appointed the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven on Long Island.

Jon is a hard-working and dedicated public servant who has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the people of eastern Long Island. As one of my original staffers, I have enjoyed watching Jon develop and sharpen his communications and political skills.

Jon started as a press secretary when I opened my Washington office in 2003. He became a trusted advisor who helped shape and carry out my agenda. He was already an ex-

perienced congressional staffer with service as Congressman STEVE ROTHMAN's press secretary. Additionally, he brought energy and environment policy expertise to my staff as a former national political representative of the Sierra Club.

When Jon moved back home to Long Island, I was delighted to keep him on board my staff as the communications and district office director. As the leader of my office in Coram, New York, I have always been able to count on Jon's counsel to deliver effective constituent services.

Jon has also excelled at advocating key transportation and infrastructure projects on Long Island. He has helped me advocate important conservation initiatives, particularly the preservation of open spaces and biodiversity in Long Island Sound. He was also instrumental in helping me secure a federal study of the severely polluted Forge River in Mastic, New York.

Such important assignments involved working closely and almost daily with multiple levels of local elected representatives and maintaining important working relationships with government officials, civic groups and community advocacy organizations. As such, Jon proved to be an invaluable asset to my staff, both as a skilled professional and through his friendly, light-hearted nature.

Jon currently resides in Port Jefferson Station with his wife, Mary Ellen, their nearly five-month-old daughter, Eleanor, along with a notorious yet very talented pet tortoise named Boris. While I am saddened to see him leave my staff, I congratulate Jon on his appointment and will look forward to observing his continuing career in public service in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my staff and the people of the first congressional district of New York, I thank Jonathan M. Schneider for his hard work to improve the lives of eastern Long Island's residents. I wish him and his family continued success, good health and the best of luck for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND DR. CARL F. BROOKS

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Dr. Carl F. Brooks for his commitment to service in his community and his church, First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Punta Gorda, Florida. Dr. Brooks has employed his selfless vision to promote and provide resources that help people turn to God.

Sunday February 10, 2008 will mark the 28th anniversary of Dr. Brooks' service as Pastor of First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. He began in 1980 when Punta Gorda was a small town on the southwest coast of Florida. As Punta Gorda grew, his vision and mission to serve expanded to provide human services and educational resources.

The Reverend Dr. Brooks is quoted as saying "The future is not something you enter, it is something you create. We will not continue with 'Business as Usual', we will be guided by an authentic vision through which the Kingdom's agenda is accomplished."